True, strange and wonderful News from the City of

LONDON

Being a true and perfect Relation of the Tryal and Condemnation of a Soldier which was to dye for killing another that went civilly to help him to his Quarters.

Also an Account of a young Man that is Condemn'd for Ravishing a Maiden-child under ten years of age.

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Likewise how a woman was pull'd out of bed by the Divel, in Southwark Prison, and throw'd against the ground, which made her confess the Murdering of her child, which before had been clear'd for it.

Also a relation of a cruel Murder committed by a man upon a young Lad his Servant, near Debtford in Kent, within three miles of London, upon Munday the first day of July 1678.

Likewise a Wonder of a Child that was born in Bull and Mouth street near Alderſgate, London, that spoke at five days old which has caus'd great admiration round the City.

With an Account of three more that is Condemn'd to dye for Robbery. With Allowance.

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True, ſtrange, and wonderful News from the City of LONDON.

OF all the Sins that man can commit, there is none cryes ſo loud to God for Vengeance as that crying ſin of Murder, and for all that men ſee ſo many ſad Examples for the puniſhment of ſuch bloody Crimes, yet do we find by dayly Experience too many falls into it, as by this Narrative ſhall appear For on *Tueſday* the 18*th.* of *June* a Soldier marching towards *Brandford*, and being much in drink, laid himſelf down to ſleep in a field belonging to *Cheſwick* Pariſh, where a man was cutting of Peaſe, he coming and finding him without Sword and Belt, did conceive within himſelf that ſome body might come by and have ſtolen them from him; he being ſleeping and in that condition, but ſoon after came by three other Soldiers, whom he call'd, and deſired them to go and wake him, and perſwade him to go with them, which they were willing to do though he was a ſtranger unto them, and drawing nigh unto him, they found him lying on his Muſquet, and that Cockt, one of them ſtoops down and uncockt it, and ſo with much a do they wak'd him, and perſwaded

him very civilly to get up and go along with them, and not lye there least he should lose his Arms, and withal asked him if his Musquet were charged, who answered with swearing, that it was with Powder and Bullet, but instead of going with them, he turned back towards *London*, whereupon one of them very civilly and with kind words took him by the arm and turnd him the other way, telling him he was going wrong, and so perswading him to March along with them and they would help him forwards, but he refusing, tumbled himself down, and as they were standing at a small distance, he getting upon his knees cockt his Musquet again, and presents it at them, and giving fire, shot one of the three Soldiers in the right side of the Belly just below the Sash, making a wound two inches wide and ten deep, of which he dropt down dead and never spoke word, the other two seiz'd upon him, and having him before a Magistrate he was committed to *Newgate*, where coming to his Tryal, he had nothing to say but that he was in drink, and did not know what he did, but this excuse did him no good, for it appear'd that he knew his Musquet to be char'gd as it was with a brase of Bullets, and that he voluntarily Cockt it again, after they out of their care had uncockt it, so that he was found guilty of Murder, and received Sentence of Death *July the 4th.* 1678.

Also at the same time was tryed a young man for abusing a Maiden child which was under ten years old, the case was thus, so far as modesty will give me leave to relate it. On the 25*th.* of *May* last, a poor woman sent her child being then between Eight or Nine years old, to a Masters house of hers for six pence, which a little before she had earned for work, it chanced that the Gentleman himself was gone forth, so that none was in the way but

his Prentice, a luſty Lad about ſeventeen or eighteen years of age, he invites the girl in, but ſhe refuſing, he pluck'd her in, and carried her into a back room, telling her he would give her the ſix pence anon, but having ſhut the dore laid her on the Chairs and fell to practiſe his Brutiſhneſs, the conſequence of which is, that the Child to this day has a Diſeaſe as was atteſted by a Chirurgeon that belongs to the Hoſpital where ſhe is in Cure, the child fearing the Mother would have beaten her, did not at preſent declare the matter tho ſhe came home crying, but there was little notice taken then, nor indeed till a week after, ſome unuſual ſimptoms cauſed the Mother to enquire into it, and ſo got a full diſcovery of it, nor did the fellow much deny it, when he was taxed and calld in queſtion, but ſeem'd to promiſe to pay twelve pence a week towards her Cure, ſo that the matter of Fact was proved as was poſſible in ſuch a caſe, by the teſtimony of a Midwife and other good women, and the childs own relation, who declared it very plainly in open Court, upon all which he was found guilty, and by the Statute excluded from benefit of Clergy was condemned to dy.

There were this Seſſions in all five Condemned to dye, the other three being for Robbery, and ſome more that is to ride the Circuit with the Judges to ſee what Evidence will come againſt them.

Now I come to ſpeak of a very remarkable thing which came to paſs on *Wedneſday* night about the Hour of twelve and one, being the 26*th.* of *June* in the Priſon call'd the *Marſhal-Seas* in the Burrough of *Southwark*, which was this, a woman was caſt in there upon ſuſpition of murdering her child, but no evidence that came could prove it, ſo that ſhe was acquitted, and lay there for nothing but her Fees, but on the aforeſaid time being but a little bfore ſhe

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was to come forth, ſhe was pull'd out of Bed and thrown againſt the ground, and by the fall received a deep cut in the head, where the blood was found in plenty the next day, and by the noiſe of her fall made the Priſon ſhake, this being told to me, I went my ſelf unto her, where I call'd her to me, and did enquire of her what ſhe thought by ſuch an example, ſhe told me ſhe could not tell, I aſked her if ſhe ſaw nothing, ſhe ſaid no, but only felt a blow from a cold hand, ſaid I does any body lye near ye, none but three or four women, which was faſt a ſleep, and that ſhe lay alone. I told her it was to be fear'd ſhe was guilty of her childs Murder, but ſhe deny'd it, though I was told the next day morning ſhe had confeſt it, and ſaid ſure it was the Devil that came to puniſh her for killing her child, however ſhe is kept in upon them words.

Alſo upon the firſt day of *July* being *Monday*, was committed a ſad and woful Murder in *Kent*, near *Debtford*, ſome four miles from *London*, which was thus. A man that conſtantly uſed to travel every day, for the moſt part between the time of *May day* and St. *James day*, from *London* to *Dullege* Wells, and with a horſe brought that water to the City and cryed it about the Streets, and ſold it ſometimes for a penny a quart and ſometimes leſs, this being in moſt part a livelihood for him and his boy, ſo one morning he ſent his boy to the Wells to fetch ſome water for to ſell about the ſtreets being of great uſe for many things, but how it hapned the poor child coming back with his Horſe loaded, by the way ſet his Horſe to Graſs by a bank-ſide, and the lad being tyr'd and for want of reſt fell a ſleep upon the ground, his Maſter thinking him long, went to meet him, where coming near *Debtford* found his Horſe graſeing and his boy faſt a ſleep, whom this unmerciful man fell a kicking and treading upon the poor child

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while the blood came out at his Fundament and Yard, ſo drives away the Horſe and comes to *London*, telling his wife that he found his young Rogue faſt a ſleep, but I think I have put him in a ſleep, the mean while ſome people came by and hearing the boy groan in the Ditch, went and enquired of him the occaſion of his lying there, but the poor child as well as he could ſpeak, told them the whole buſineſs, ſo they began to take pitty, and to help him up, telling him that they would carry him to a Houſe and put him to bed, but the child thanked them, and ſaid I *ſhall ſave ye that trouble*, and as they juſt lifted him up he ſunk down again and dyed preſently, ſo news came to town and his Maſter was taken and committed to *Maidſtone* Goale, that being the place for the County of *Kent*, where he muſt lye till the next Aſſiſes, to anſwer for this bloody Crime.

So to conclude, I have one remarkable and wonderful thing to relate, which indeed has been a great wonder, in the City of *London*, But in brief I ſhall give you an account of the matter. A *Founder* living in *Bull* and *Mouth* ſtreet near *Alderſgate*, *London*, his wife was delivered of a Luſty Boy, on *Munday* the 17*th*. of *June* laſt paſt, and on *Friday* following the child lying in the bed by the Mother, broad awake, and ſome children playing in the room, and the Nurſe making ſomething for her Miſtreſs, the child opened the mouth and ſpoke in a fine ſweet, low voice, but the children in the room made ſuch a noiſe that it could not be underſtood what it ſaid; the Mother being frighted, ſtarts up in her bed, crying, *Heavens bleſs me my child ſpeaks*, the Infant anſwered I, I, I, ſo laught out like an old body, then lay ſtill, this was on *Fryday* the 21 of *June*, the child being then not above five days old, Hundreds of People has been to ſee this, and many Noble perſons, and is very

was to come forth, she was pull'd out of Bed and thrown against the ground, and by the fall received a deep cut in the head, where the blood was found in plenty the next day, and by the noise of her fall made the Prison shake, this being told to me, I went my self unto her, where I call'd her to me, and did enquire of her what she thought by such an example, she told me she could not tell, I asked her if she saw nothing, she said no, but only felt a blow from a cold hand, said I does any body lye near ye, none but three or four women, which was fast a sleep, and that she lay alone. I told her it was to be fear'd she was guilty of her childs Murder, but she deny'd it, though I was told the next day morning she had confest it, and said sure it was the Devil that came to punish her for killing her child, however she is kept in upon them words.

Also upon the first day of *July* being *Monday*, was committed a sad and woful Murder in *Kent*, near *Debtford*, some four miles from *London*, which was thus. A man that constantly used to travel every day, for the most part between the time of *May day* and St. *James day*, from *London* to *Dullege* Wells, and with a horse brought that water to the City and cryed it about the Streets, and sold it sometimes for a penny a quart and sometimes less, this being in most part a livelihood for him and his boy, so one morning he sent his boy to the Wells to fetch some water for to sell about the streets being of great use for many things, but how it hapned the poor child coming back with his Horse loaded, by the way set his Horse to Grass by a bank-side, and the lad being tyr'd and for want of rest fell a sleep upon the ground, his Master thinking him long, went to meet him, where coming near *Debtford* found his Horse grasing and his boy fast a sleep, whom this unmerciful man fell a kicking and treading upon the poor child

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very well satisfied with the certainty of this Relation. The Parents of this child is very well to live, and wants nothing, for had it been a poor mans child, we might have judg'd it to be a Cheat only to get money, in that time of necessity, but these are good sufficient people and lives well and will not receive any thing though it be proffered them and the Mother and Nurse does justify the speaking of this child.

And thus have I given you an account of some wicked and bloody Murders, very lately committed, also of a Rape upon a Child under ten years of age, and this last wonder of the Child speaking at five days old. Let none doubt or mistrust any thing in this book, for I promise you truly I was very curious in writing any thing here till I went my self and was satisfied with the certainty of every particular.

So *Farewel.*

L. W.